

Keeping Students Safe: Protecting Environmental Health in Schools

April 12, 2006

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Puget Sound Educational Service District Offices, Renton

12:00

WELCOME

Ken Armstrong, Program Administrator, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County

Ken Armstrong is the Administrator of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program - a regional government partnership that works to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality in King County by reducing the threat posed by the production, use, storage and disposal of hazardous materials. Prior to joining the Program in 2000, Ken spent 22 years in the U.S. Coast Guard, where his last assignment was as Director of Congressional and Community Affairs for the U.S. Coast Guard's Northwest Region.

12:05

PROTECTING CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

This opening presentation will describe why children are especially susceptible to environmental health risks and how some of these risks may be present in school buildings as a result of maintenance and cleaning practices.

Steven G. Gilbert, Ph.D., D.A.B.T., Director and Founder of the Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders (INND)

Steve Gilbert has a Ph.D. in toxicology and is a Diplomat of American Board of Toxicology. He is Affiliate Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington and Affiliate Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, UW Bothell. Dr. Gilbert's research has focused on neurobehavioral effects of low-level exposure to lead and mercury on the developing nervous system. His book, "A Small Dose of Toxicology - The Health Effects of Common Chemicals," was published in 2004. (Visit www.asmalldoseof.org or contact sgilbert@innd.org).

12:20

THE VIRTUAL INDOOR AIR QUALITY WALK-THROUGH EVALUATION: IDENTIFYING AND SOLVING COMMON IAQ PROBLEMS

Using visual examples and case studies, Dave Blake will discuss the steps involved in an IAQ walk-through evaluation, common problems that emerge, and practical solutions the district can take to remedy problems typically encountered. He will also present recent asthma statistics and methods of asthma trigger control in school environments.

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Dave Blake, Indoor Air Specialist, Northwest Clean Air Agency

Dave Blake created the indoor air program at Northwest Clean Air Agency and has managed it since 1991. He has an MS in Environmental Science (Administration) from Huxley College of Environmental Studies at Western Washington University. Mr. Blake and colleague Rich Prill of WSU Energy Programs in Spokane have completed voluntary walk-through assessments of hundreds of schools for indoor air quality. Their practical approach to implementing indoor air quality programs in schools has earned national recognition including the first ever EPA IAQ Tools for Schools Distinguished Service Award, which they shared in 2004.

Question and Answer Time

1:20

HEALTHIER APPROACHES TO MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING

Panel members will discuss what schools can do to incorporate healthier maintenance and cleaning practices without additional staff or funding. Speakers will bring their extensive experience to this discussion of innovative and safe cleaning techniques, essential elements of an indoor environmental program, and environmentally friendly purchasing options.

Gary Jefferis, Director of Maintenance and Operations, Everett School District

Gary Jefferis oversees custodial services, all maintenance activities, an inter-district courier service, grounds, warehousing, utilities, and refuse service for the district. Prior to the Everett School District, Mr. Jefferis served in a similar position for the Bellingham School District. He has a Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science in Engineering. With over 40 years of building maintenance and construction knowledge, he has presented both on a national and international level on indoor environment issues, and has been active in developing governmental programs and literature in this area.

Colin MacRae, Environmental and Safety Coordinator, Bellevue School District

When school personnel reported reoccurring health problems, Colin MacRae began investigating environmental issues associated with carpets in school buildings. He researched safe cleaning techniques and developed tests to determine hazards that might be contained in carpets. The Bellevue School District has implemented innovative green carpet-cleaning practices applying his research.

Eric Nelson, Environmental Purchasing Coordinator, King County

Eric Nelson has managed the King County Environmental Purchasing Program since its inception in 1990. Because there are few standards for

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environmental purchasing, Mr. Nelson and his colleague, Karen Hamilton, produce information to help county agencies develop contracts that favor environmentally preferable products and services. The result of their work is detailed in the program's 2004 annual report which describes over \$17 million in environmentally preferable purchases and nearly \$1 million in savings. In recent years, they have worked toward standards for cleaning products that are better for worker health and safety as well as the environment. Today, Mr. Nelson will discuss King County's progress toward a "green cleaning" contract.

Question and Answer Time

2:15

MANAGING PESTS WITHOUT HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES

Panelists will discuss Integrated Pest Management policy, groundskeeping methods that reduce or eliminate the need for pesticides, and practices for controlling indoor pests.

Mike Currie, Facilities Director, Bainbridge Island School District

Mike Currie is the Facilities Director for the Bainbridge Island School District, one of many districts in the state that has adopted an IPM policy. Mr. Currie previously served as the Director of Facilities and Organization for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and in that capacity worked on legislation related to IPM for school districts.

Liesl Zappler, Gardener, Seattle School District

Liesl Zappler has been organically gardening in the public sector for 14 years. She has worked for the Missoula City Parks Department, the University of Washington, and the Port of Seattle. She is currently a gardener for the Seattle School District where she participated in writing its new IPM Policy. A certified arborist and a garden consultant, Ms. Zappler has been a presenter at numerous Green Gardening/IPM Conference. She has covered such topics as pesticide reduction, the use of compost tea, and the use of vinegar-based products. She has also been a guest speaker on the Ciscoe Morris radio show.

Lisa Niehaus, Health and Environmental Investigator II, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program

Lisa Niehaus is a Health & Environmental Investigator in the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County. Prior to joining the Hazwaste Program, she was a gardener and horticulturist for nearly 20 years, during which time her jobs included head gardener at the Woodland Park Zoo and at the West Point Treatment Plant in Discovery Park. She currently works with small businesses, helping them manage their hazardous waste. She also works on several IPM projects designed

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to help businesses, the public, and government reduce their reliance on pesticides.

Question and Answer Time

3:15

KING COUNTY GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAM

This brief overview will describe the steps toward becoming a King County Green School. The Green Schools Program helps schools and school districts to initiate or expand conservation practices and reduce related costs, increase awareness of conservation strategies among administrators, staff, students and parents, and receive recognition as stewards of the environment.

Dale Alekel, Project Program Manager, King County Solid Waste Division

Dale has worked in the recycling field since 1985. She was the founding Executive Director of Uptown Recycling, a nonprofit organization in Chicago which provided residential and commercial collection services, a buy-back center and drop-off centers, as well as recycling education. Since 1994, Dale has worked for the King County Solid Waste Division, where she has assisted businesses to expand waste reduction and recycling. In 2002, Dale launched the King County Green Schools Program to provide school districts and schools with the technical assistance and resources they need to initiate and improve recycling and other conservation practices.

3:25

HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS ASSESSMENT TOOL (HEALTHYSEAT)

The EPA has developed a unique software tool to help school districts evaluate and manage their school facilities for key environmental, safety and health issues. The new computer software is now available for school districts to customize and use for voluntary self-assessments of their facilities and to track and manage information on environmental conditions school by school.

Pam Emerson, Environmental Education/Children's Health, US EPA Region 10

Pam Emerson has been involved in the development and piloting of the HealthySEAT program.

3:55

CLOSING REMARKS

Ken Armstrong, Program Administrator, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County

4:00

ADJOURN

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